Message Text

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R 221312Z APR 78
FM FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8292
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS AMEMBASSY CAIRO 11404

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, EG, XF
SUBJ: PRESS TREATMENT OF ATHERTON ARRIVAL AND ISRAEL'S
- TROUBLES

SUMMARY. AMB ATHERTON'S ARRIVAL IN CAIRO AND HIS STATEMENT REAFFIRMING U.S. COMMITMENT TO PEACE EFFORTS AND TO OFFER PROPOSALS WHEN USEFUL GIVEN PROMINENT PRESS PLAY. EDITORIALS NOTE ISRAEL'S PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IN U.S. AND RECOMMEND EGYPT EMBARK ON SIMILAR CAMPAIGN TO CAPITALIZE ON GAINS ALREADY MADE BY SADAT INITIATIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. ATHERTON ARRIVAL. CAIRO DAILIES APRIL 22 HIGHLIGHT ATHERTON ARRIVAL WITH FRONT PAGE PICTURES. ARRIVAL STATEMENT AFFIRMING U.S. COMMITMENT TO SEARCH FOR PEACE AND ASSERTION THAT, WHILE HE WILL OFFER NO AMERICAN PROPOSALS DURING THIS VISIT, U.S. PREEARED TO DO SO WHEN IT USEFUL TREATED PROMINENTLY. ATHERTON TO SEE UNCLASSIFIED

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FONMIN KAMEL TODAY AND SADAT TOMORROW AT HURGHADA. GUMHURIYYA'S HODA TEWFIQ LEARNED FROM "AMERICAN SOURCES" THAT U.S. SEEKING TO GET "ACCEPTABLE ATTITUDE" FROM ISRAEL.

2. ISRAEL'S DIFFICULTIES. AHRAM AND GUMHURIYYA QUOTE DEPT SPOKESMAN'S SAYING THAT ISRAEL'S RENEWAL OF WORK

ON SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED LANDS WOULD BE "OBSTACLE" TO PEACE EFFORTS. AKHBAR REPORTS ISRAELI PEACE MOVEMENT LEADERS "DISAPPOINTED" AT BEGIN'S REFUSAL TO CHANGE HIS POLICY. AKHBAR EVEN RUNS SMALL BUT STILL FRONT PAGE STORY THAT PRES CARTER HAS RECEIVED 3000 LETTERS FROM U.S. CITIZENS DEMANDING MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL BE CUT OFF UNTIL IT RESPONDS TO PEACE INITIATIVE.

3. PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS. GUMHURIYYA EDITORIAL NOTES ISRAEL HAS BEGUN "WORLDWIDE" PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN TO GAIN SYMPATHY AND ACCEPTANCE OF ITS POSITIONS AND URGES EGYPT TO MAKE "ACTIVE COUNTERMOVES." IN LENGTHY COMMENTARY IN AKHBAR, MUSTAFA AMIN (JUST BACK FROM U.S.) SUGGESTS EGYPTIAN CAMPAIGN TO COUNTER ISRAEL'S "PROPAGANDA DRIVE" IN U.S. BY USING WRITERS, SCHOLARS, AND OTHER EGYPTIAN NON-GOVERNMENTAL FIGURES. TO CONTINUE REALIZE GAINS SADAT INITIATIVE MADE WITH U.S. PUBLIC, EGYPT MUST AFFECT "POPULAR VOICE" IN AMERICA, WHICH ALONE CAN INFLUENCE AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION AND SHOULD NOT DEPEND ON USG ALONE. EILTS

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